

**Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee**

Minutes – April 7, 2017

Present: Members: Joe King, George Arthur, Ann Letendre

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

(HRLP meeting called to order at 10:20 am, following the Friends HRLP meeting at 9:30 am.)

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of January 27, 2017 were approved, motion by Joe, second by George.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

Refer to Arthur report (attached) for details. Don Bellingham noted that the speaker at the April 26th Vernon Greenway Volunteers Annual Kick-Off meeting will be Town Engineer, Dave Smith, who will speak about construction of the suspended bridge.

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas

- a. Dart Hill South to Lyman Bridge – Looks great!
- b. Dart Hill North to WPCA - OK
- c. Walgreen Corner OK, someone is taking care of the area
- d. Saxony Mill Park OK.
- e. Paper Mill Corner Park – OK
- f. West Main St - OK
- g. Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) - OK
- h. Rails to Trails – Rockville Spur - OK

C. Current Projects – Status

Report from Friends HRLP on Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk

Windsorville Rd Suspended Bridge

All needed permits have been received. State flood certification is not needed, as determined by the State. Construction is slated for July-Aug weekends, with assistance of Vernon Greenway Volunteers. Quotes have been received for materials needed and submitted to DEEP.

Pleasantview to Manchester Property Easements needed

No further activity in obtaining approval from DOT for a trail location on DOT property on the under the east side of the I-84 overpass.

Pleasantview Boardwalks

George met with Dave Smith to review plans for the walking bridge to be constructed on top of the old farm concrete bridge on Lyman Farm. George completed construction of a 16-ft bridge over a stream, with help of Joe King, Jon Roe and Vernon Greenway Volunteers.

Ann is seeking quotes for the 250-ft boardwalk. One remaining short boardwalk (8-ft) still needs to be constructed in the marsh area. Volunteers will initiate that activity late spring, early summer.

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D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications

- a. Rockville Heritage Trail Extension – Talcott Park – no discussion
- b. 19 Grove Street – Area is cleared; opportunity exists for grant to do landscaping and park design

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education

F. Blueways Trail – No new action.

3. New Business –

- a. None

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am, motion by Joe, second by George.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

ARTHUR REPORT – JAN 27, 2017 to APRIL 2, 2017

1. I walked a new HRLP river trail from Wendy's parking lot to Tri City parking lot on March 29. It was 1700 feet and dry except for a small stream crossing at Tri City. I only worked 2 hrs and would have to do a lot more hours to clear and flag the trail. We will have to figure out and get approval for both end connections.
2. I will be working part time for Parks & Rec again this summer. Starting date has not been determined. Steve would like me to devote more time to Valley Falls Park.
3. I decided not to lead a Trails Day hike this year for CFPA.
4. I believe Cliff Chapman will move the Mansion rock when I am ready to build the bridge. Should we decide to keep the new bridge access closed until the 200 ft boardwalk is completed ??

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT - Jan 23, 2017 to Mar 24, 2017

Maintenance (Off Season)

John Horan and I weekly tour the trail heads at Dart Hill North, Dart Hill South, Church Street, Valley Falls Park, Tunnel Road and The Mural. We pick up trash, look for damage or graffiti, make sure trail maps and dog litter bags are adequate, move trash to the road for pickup (the latter at Church Street and Tunnel Road).

CT Census Project

Every two weeks I check the camera box at Church Street to insure it is working properly. I will be doing a Webinar on March 30th and John Horan and I will be doing a formal class on April 11 at the Extension Center to get more knowledge on how to proceed on this project.

Table at Greater Vernon Holistic Healthfest

We will have a table at the Greater Vernon Holistic Healthfest on March 25 and 26.

Spring Kickoff Meeting

Spring Kickoff Meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 7 PM at the Teen Center. Guest Speaker is Town Engineer Dave Smith who will discuss the building of the Suspended Bridge over the Hockanum River this year. Filming of the project is under consideration.